

MASON ALUMNUS RETURNS TO CONCERT HALL STAGE

Vincent Oppido, who graduated from the George Mason University's School of Music, will appear with the American Festival Pops Orchestra on April 13, 2013. Vincent received his Masters degree in Conducting in 2010 and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music in 2008. Originally hailing from New York, he now works and resides in Los Angeles.

The concert, whose theme is *Cinema Magic*, will feature some of the best music scores ever composed for the movies.

Anthony Maiello, Artistic Director and Conductor of the AFPO, contacted Vincent, who is a former student of Professor Maiello, over a year ago and asked him if he would like to help create and participate in conducting a concert program featuring music scores produced for movies. This idea had been under discussion between the two of them for quite some time, but Professor Maiello thought the time was ripe since Vincent, who himself is working in the movie industry, would have "access to many of the composers in the movie industry."

The concert will feature the movie compositions in several different ways. For "The Art of Film Scoring," the audience will watch a scene from a movie without the musical score, which will be followed by Vincent briefly discussing the process of writing music for a scene. Then they will watch the same scene again, only this time accompanied by the orchestra with Vincent conducting. "The audience will gain an appreciation of how much the music

score enhances the enjoyment of the movie," noted Vincent. He is preparing montages of several movies, including the *Star Wars* series, and will conduct the orchestral scores for each as they are displayed on an on-stage screen above the orchestra. This is a challenge," said Vincent, "because the music has to be in synch with the movie." He noted that because the film is "boss," or fixed, the orchestra must keep up with the video being shown on the screen. "It will be

fun, too," he added.

One of the montages will be a "Salute to Hollywood," accompanied by music from *Gone with the Wind*. Professor Maiello will be conducting the orchestra playing music scores written by noted film composers, including John Williams among others.

Vincent is

currently working on independent

films with directors he has met, as well as working with music preparation companies. He worked on the award-winning movie *Cloud Atlas*, which was released last year. He was responsible for the music preparation (prepared printed parts from the composer's score for the musicians to play from at the score recording sessions) and was one of the orchestrators for the additional music (wrote orchestral arrangements). "That was fun," he said, "but it was really great to see my name in the film credits list." He is looking forward to working on more movie scores and to seeing his name in more film credit listings. We wish him success and look forward to another appearance here in the Concert Hall in the future.



Anthony Maiello and Vincent Oppido

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Grant Support for the Acting Company's Production of "Of Mice and Men"

Perennial favorite The Acting Company returns to the Concert Hall stage on April 28, 2013 to perform John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Founded forty years ago with the young Kevin Kline, Patti LuPone, and David Ogden Stiers, it has garnered critical acclaim on a national scale through over 130 productions of classic, contemporary and new plays. The Company has won numerous awards, including a TONY Award for Excellence in Theater.

The Company has been invited to participate in our pre-performance discussion and in an arts enrichment program in Prince William County and Manassas City schools. The schools will collaborate with the Hylton Center (where the Company will perform *As You Like It* on April 27, 2013) in curriculum development and in aligning objectives



The Acting Company, *Of Mice and Men*

with the Virginia Standards of Learning in the Arts. The Acting Company's Student Performance Series will be the basis of this additional complimentary activity, which offers one-hour productions specifically designed for the classroom using minimal sets, costumes and a small cast of actors.

In support of education activities connected to The Acting Company's residency at the Center for the Arts and the Hylton Center, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation has awarded the Center for the Arts grant support for this engagement. The Center for the Arts routinely applies for grant funding when artists who come to the Center are also in "residency" with us beyond their performance. The Acting Company's education program is a good example of how the Center also serves the local community beyond the campus.

Performance Cancellations

The Ballet Revolución performance scheduled for April 26, 2013 was cancelled because the group was unable to obtain exit visas. Since artists' bookings are made a year or two in advance, it is rare that a replacement can be obtained on short notice.

When a snow storm crippled the Washington area causing the last minute cancellation of Olympia Dukakis' one-woman play, *Rose*, it was rescheduled to the end of the season.

Dance lovers disappointed by the absence of Ballet Revolución are reminded that several outstanding dance companies will be at the Center



Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo

for the Arts this spring. Audiences will be thrilled and enchanted by the spectacular modern dance ensemble, RIOULT on March 8, 2013. The celebrated Russian National Ballet Theatre will be dancing *Giselle* on April 6, 2013 and *Swan Lake* April 7, 2013.

Equally accomplished, but in a lighter vein, is the popular Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo on May 4, 2013.

The ticket price is refundable on all cancelled programs or may be applied to another performance in the same year.

Usher in the New Year



Everyone who's attended a performance at the Center for the Arts knows that the friendly, conscientious, and knowledgeable ushers who greet you at hall's entrance, take your ticket, offer you a program, and help you find your seat are an important part of the total experience. Rietta Klair has been one of the Center's many volunteer ushers since 2010.

"We arrive about an hour and a half before showtime—and, because we're volunteers, we get complimentary tickets to watch the performance. I work about ten to twelve shows a year," says Rietta. "Plus, the hours I donate help raise funds for Friends of the Center for the Arts."

Exxon/Mobil, where Rietta worked for many years, generously donates \$500 to any organization to which an employee or retiree gives 20 hours of service. They'll donate up to \$2,000 a year per volunteer.

If you are a current Center for the Arts volunteer, why not check to see if your company has a similar arrangement? And, don't forget to thank the people who welcome you to each performance. People say "the show must go on," but that wouldn't be possible without our ushering staff and volunteers!



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<http://cfa.gmu.edu/friends/>

Friends Helping Friends



from left to right Christine O'Hare, Joan White, Gary Grimes, Joyce Grimes

Have you ever considered volunteering as a *Friend*? There are many opportunities, depending on your interests and the time you can devote. You can volunteer for any one of our committees, from Special Events to Communications to administrative tasks. There are opportunities in all areas, as Christine O'Hare, who has been a Friend for five years discovered in late November when she received a call from Special Events committee member Judy Wertz asking her to help with the *Die Fledermaus* Afternoon Tea Artists in Conversation event held on Saturday, December 1, 2012. Christine had not previously had occasion to volunteer and found that she met several new people and was impressed with their dedication to our Friends organization. She said that since Mason is our neighbor, she wanted to support not only the University but the *Great Performances* and this was "an opportunity to give a little something back." She would be more than happy to volunteer again in any way that she can. She has found that volunteering is rewarding and is a great way to meet new people and reconnect with others she often sees at the Center.

Please consider reviewing some of the volunteer opportunities available and let Deborah Páez Hoesly, Director of Development, know of your interest. She can be reached at 703-993-4188 or at dpaez@gmu.edu.

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2012/2013 GREAT PERFORMANCES AT MASON

March | April | May

Fri., Mar. 1	8 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Sat., Mar. 2	8 pm	Turtle Island Quartet
Sun., Mar. 3	2 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
Fri., Mar. 8	8 pm	RIOULT
Sat., Mar. 9	8 pm	Beethoven Orchestra Bonn
Sun., Mar. 17	7 pm	Natalie MacMaster
Fri., Mar. 29	8 pm	Les 7 Doigts de la Main
Sat., Mar. 30	2 pm	Les 7 Doigts de la Main
Sat., Mar. 30	8 pm	Les 7 Doigts de la Main
Sat., Apr. 6	8 pm	Russian National Ballet Theatre, <i>Giselle</i>
Sun., Apr. 7	4 pm	Russian National Ballet Theatre, <i>Swan Lake</i>
Sat., Apr. 13	8 pm	American Festival Pops Orchestra
Sun., Apr. 14	7 pm	Jeffrey Siegel, <i>Listen to the Dance</i>
Fri., Apr. 19	8 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Sun., Apr. 21	2 pm	Virginia Opera, <i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>
Sun., Apr. 28	4 pm	The Acting Company, <i>Of Mice and Men</i>
Sat., May 4	8 pm	Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo